

Abstract

Winston-Salem State University project entitled *Winston-Salem State University Job Corps Scholars Program (WSSU-JCSP)* will serve seven target zip codes and seven census tracts designated as opportunity zones across five counties (Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, and Wake). The counties rank some of the lowest in the state of North Carolina for per capita income, each of which is below the state average, and some of the lowest rates of economic upward mobility. The WSSU-JCSP will serve a total of 80 scholars over a 39month period, with a goal of successfully placing 95% of all scholars in employment post-program. The proposed project does not include a residential component, but scholars will be eligible for on campus housing in compliance with university guidelines for enrolled undergraduate students. WSSU-JCSP anticipates a high number of commuter students and travel support is built into the operational budget to support scholars. A total of \$1,186,900 is requested for the total project with a total of \$7,480 per student (80) is anticipated over the course of the grant which is less than a standard year of college tuition. According to one of the major reports about cost-benefit analysis for employment placement in vocational rehabilitation services, the average cost per case closed for vocational rehabilitation is \$2,917, but only 32% of cases close with successful employment. This project is intended to have a 95% success rate hence the higher intervention cost. Winston-Salem State University is a four-year Historically Black College/University, liberal arts college accredited to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). As an HBCU, WSSU has experience working with Job Corps eligible student populations through our dual-enrollment program. The WSSU Career Development Services department has extensive experience providing personal/career and employment counseling through its staff of a Career Services Director, Internship Coordinator, and Employer Relations Coordinator. The services include: (a) providing support and guidance to assist with

clarification and formulation of career goals; (b) helping students develop self-awareness of interests, values, and skills that facilitate effective career exploration and decision making in an increasingly diverse, global society; (c) providing information and resources about occupations, job trends, employer requirements, and educational opportunities; (d) delivering programs and providing coaching on job search skills, resume development, and interview techniques while encouraging students to pursue internships and other experiential opportunities to explore and prepare for careers; and (e) collaborating with academic departments to incorporate career development activities into the educational experiences of students, while empowering students to become active participants in their own continuing development. **Technical career training programs offered include:** Career Readiness (14 credit hrs), NonProfit Leadership (23 credit hrs), and Computer Programming Certificates (14 credit hrs). The Winston-Salem State Job Corp Scholars Program (WSSU-JCSP) will enroll 40 students a year in a 2-year program in which year 1 they will complete a 12-month certification in (1) Career Readiness, (2) Non-Profit Leadership, or (3) Computer Programming, and year 2 job placement and employment supports. Winston-Salem State University is a comprehensive, historically Black college/university (HBCU) offering innovative undergraduate programs and exceptional graduate programs grounded in the tradition of liberal education. The WSSU-JCSP will be an extension of the current tradition of excellence at WSSU to prepare students to depart to serve their communities. It will recruit from targeted communities which include economic opportunity zones based on the educational and economic needs of the region. There are six economic opportunity zone census tracts spread across all seven zip codes: 37067000100, 37183050900, 37057061400, 37067001400, 37067001700, 37067000100, and 37067000802.